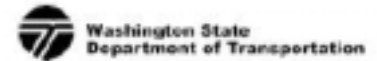


# Safe Routes to Schools

A request for proposals from schools and school districts in Washington for people to work together for traffic safety, transportation efficiency, healthy children, strong neighborhoods and reduced pollution.

The Washington State Legislature included funding in the 2004 Supplemental Transportation Budget to support the Safe Routes to School Grant Program. The purpose of the program is to fund pilot or demonstration efforts in a handful of selected communities. A variety of projects will be selected for the purpose of evaluating the approaches and results this program can achieve.



Safe Routes to Schools provides children a safe, healthy alternative to being driven by parents or riding the bus to school. Eligible projects for local community programs and state support should target some or all of the following:

- **Engineering fixes** (like sidewalks, pathways, street safety and design improvements) to create safer routes for children bicycling and walking to schools.
- **Safety education curriculums and programs** to encourage children to become physically active by walking and biking to school.
- **Enforcement programs** by local law enforcement agencies to improve traffic safety around schools with school zone, school route law and safety enforcement programs.
- **Community Health and Encouragement Initiatives** that link to the long-term community health benefits when parents and children can take advantage of safe ways for biking and walking to school.

## Who should apply?

Applications may be made by schools and school districts. However, if engineering improvements are included, the city or county must provide written concurrence to administer the project.

## **How much funding is available?**

The legislature made one million dollars available. Approximately eight to ten projects will be chosen and applicants should scale their grant size aspirations accordingly.

## **How will projects be selected?**

A committee drawn from the sponsoring agencies, educators and advocacy groups will evaluate proposals and make recommendations. It is hoped that the selected proposals will test a variety of ways in which this program can achieve its aims. Applicants should describe how their project will make improvements in areas of health and safety education, enforcement, encouragement or engineering that will increase the number of students walking and biking to school and identify how performance of their projects will be measured.

## **What are the minimum requirements?**

1. A School Walk Route Plan. If you need more information on School Walk Routes, please refer to the School Administrator's Guide to School Walk Routes at the following website: [http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/PDF/School\\_Admin\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/PDF/School_Admin_Guide.pdf)
2. The proposal must be participated in by individuals with expertise in all of the fundamental elements of a Safe Routes to Schools Program – engineering, education and enforcement, encouragement. These participants might include teachers or school administrators, parents, local officials including public safety officials as well as elected officials, and interested citizens.
3. The project must include performance measurement that can be incorporated into a report to the legislature on program achievements. What performance objectives is your proposal designed to meet? How will you measure success or failure in attaining your objectives?
4. Each proposal from a school or school district must include a letter of support from city and /or county officials stating the official support of the city or county for the project. Cities and counties can support more than one proposal.

## **How should the proposal be submitted?**

To hold the readers interest, proposals should not be more than five pages of text and description, excluding photos. The city or county letter of support and the letter of concurrence from the local agency (if applicable) do not count in the five-page maximum. Four copies of the completed proposal are due by **May 31, 2004 at 4:00pm** at the following address:

**ATTN: Safe Routes to Schools  
WSDOT Highways and Local Programs  
310 Maple Park Ave. SE  
PO Box 47390  
Olympia, WA 98504-7390**

You can also email your proposal to [hlpgrants@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:hlpgrants@wsdot.wa.gov) by May 31, 2004 at 4:00pm.

## **When will project selections be announced?**

July 2004.